

REMARKS

Claims 2-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter; only Claim 1 is pending. The specification has been amended to cross reference the parent application. Applicants presently intend to file additional papers in this case shortly. Should the Examiner take this case up for action before receiving such papers, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the attorneys for the Applicants.

CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicants hereby claim priority under the International Convention and all rights to which they are entitled under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon the following Japanese Priority Application:

152873/2001, filed May 22, 2001.

A certified copy of the priority document was submitted in the parent application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to MPEP § 609, Applicants understand that the Examiner will, as part of his examination of this application, consider the art of record in the parent application. A form PTO-1449 is enclosed, citing the art of record in the parent application, but, pursuant to MPEP § 609, no new copies of such art are provided; should

the Examiner wish to have such submitted, however, Applicants will gladly do so upon request.

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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